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3 April 1950

Chief, Foreign Division "M"

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Intelligence Directors' Comments on Gehlen

Attached hereto are the comments by the Allied Intelligence Directors on  
the candidacy of General Gehlen at the meeting of 28 March 1950 at Mainz.

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240 Gehlen  
C. A. Schuler

SUBJECT: Comments by the Allied Intelligence Directors on the Candidacy of General Gehlen at the Meeting of March 28, 1950 - Mainz

**French:** We are convinced that Chancellor Adenauer took all precautions that the man he is placing in charge of this Agency (Federal Agency for the Protection of the Constitution) meets with our requirements. I am convinced the names proposed have been submitted after severe selection. Aside from the personalities of the candidates, I would like to examine if they do not give rise to questions of principle. First of all, I would like to examine the personality of Gehlen. Isn't this candidate in opposition to the principles of our directives? We are faced with a General who did not participate in the NSDAP, but who nevertheless belonged to Section III Ost. Do you think that his participation in this Organization, and his connection with Intelligence, might bring forth opposition from the German public? I would like to know your opinion so that after exchange of information, we can let the General Committee know what our views on this candidate are. The Germans gave us no background information on this personality. Ritter Von Lex merely told us that he was an ex-General of the General Staff of the OKH (Oberkommando des Heeres). The inquiry Lex made reveals that he is above all suspicions of having tendencies to the extreme Right or extreme Left. He adds that he is absolutely incorruptible. He is also above all political parties. This is a very important point as far as the Germans and the Allies are concerned. Our attitude with regard to him is, of course, important, because the other six candidates may have already been approved by Gehlen. Two of them have also belonged to the Abwehr. This, in itself, is not a crime or a particular obstacle. But to put at the head of this Agency three members of the Abwehr inspires some fears as to the possible reorganization of the Abwehr in another form. What do you think of General Gehlen and of his application?

**British:** We do not support his application. We agree with you that the appointment of a General who for some years was a member of the Abwehr, and one of the youngest Generals, would give rise to adverse public comment. Further, and this is an important point, his war record is concerned with the field of External Intelligence. It is in that field that he is more expert than in others. He is suggested as the head of an agency which is to deal with internal affairs and is to be of a defensive character. Taking into account his past record and the work he would do in the future, we think there is danger at some time in the future -- if he got this appointment -- of the development of combined internal and external intelligence services. It would be entirely contrary to British practices and principles to permit the concentration of both internal and external intelligence services to be concentrated in one pair of hands. It is on these grounds that we object to the proposal made by the Germans.

**French:** We are faced with a firm and clear position on the part of the British.

**U.S.:** First, we know General Gehlen, and we have known him for some time. We believe that personally he would be a very able man in this position. The only possible disqualification in our mind is the point raised by our British colleague with reference to the placing in this position of a man whose past experience has been in external intelligence. We recognize the force of this argument and are inclined to weigh it against the need

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